

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 ACDA-07 MC-02 SIG-01 /105 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RSTFPOST:PS

APPROVED BY AF:TSEELYE

-----127196 290312Z /64

P R 290220Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 177840

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SO, US

SUBJECT: U.S. SUPPLY OF ARMS TO SOMALIA

1. AF/E DIRECTOR POST BRIEFED KENYAN AMBASSADOR MBOGUA  
JULY 27 ON U.S. DECISION QUOTE IN PRINCIPLE UNQUOTE TO  
SUPPLY ARMS TO SOMALIA TO FILL GAPS IN SOMALIA'S DEFENSIVE  
STRUCTURE. HE STRESSED THAT U.S. WOULD SEEK ASSURANCES  
FROM SOMALIA AGAINST USE OUTSIDE ITS BORDERS OF  
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ANY US-SUPPLIED ITEMS. U.S. WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN  
SUPPLYING ITEMS WHICH NOT READILY SUSCEPTIBLE TO USE  
OUTSIDE SOMALIA'S BORDERS. HE EMPHASIZED THAT, CONTRARY  
TO REPORTS EMANATING FROM ADDIS ABABA ALLEGING USE BY  
SOMALI IRREGULARS IN OGADEN OF U.S. EQUIPMENT, U.S. HAS  
NEVER SUPPLIED ANY ARMS TO SOMALIA AND MUCH REMAINS TO BE  
DONE BEFORE PRESENT DECISION IN PRINCIPLE CAN BE IMPLEMENTED.

2. MBOGUA EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT IF SOMALIA IS SUCCESSFUL IN OGADEN, THEY WOULD THEN TURN ON NORTHEAST PROVINCE OF KENYA. HE NOTED THAT SOMALIA HAS NOT RENOUNCED ITS CLAIMS TO THAT AREA. POST EXPRESSED UNDERSTANDING OF KENYAN FEARS. HE SUGGESTED THAT A LESSENING OF SOMALIA'S RELIANCE ON SOVIETS AND CONCURRENT GROWTH OF THE SOMALI RELIANCE FOR SUPPORT ON COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO KENYA COULD ENHANCE

LEVERAGE OF LATTER IN FAVOR OF GREATER ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN SOMALIA AND KENYA. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT SOMALI PREOCCUPATION WITH THE OGADEN WOULD NOT CEASE IF CONTROL OF THAT AREA WERE SUCCESSFULLY WRESTED FROM ETHIOPIA. SINCE ETHIOPIA UNLIKELY TO ACCEPT LOSS OF OGADEN, RATHER THAN LOOKING TOWARD NORTHEAST PROVINCE OF KENYA SOMALIS WOULD HAVE TO PAY EVEN GREATER ATTENTION TO OGADEN WHICH ETHIOPIANS WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SEEK TO RECONQUER.

3. MBOGUA SPOKE OF INCREASING SENSE OF ISOLATION OF KENYA WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO HOSTILE ATTITUDES OF TANZANIA. HE INQUIRED IF SUBJECT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN KENYA AND TANZANIA WOULD BE RAISED WITH PRESIDENT NYERERE DURING HIS STATE VISIT. POST REPLIED THAT FOCUS OF NYERERE VISIT WOULD CLEARLY BE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. HOWEVER, HOPEFULLY VISIT WOULD IMPROVE US ABILITY TO CONSULT WITH TANZANIA ON A VARIETY OF ISSUES, WHICH AT CONFIDENTIAL

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SOME APPROPRIATE TIME COULD INCLUDE MENTION OF OUR HOPE THAT OUR TWO GOOD FRIENDS IN EAST AFRICA WOULD AGAIN BECOME FRIENDS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE THAT KENYA'S SENSE OF ISOLATION WOULD BE SOMEWHAT RELIEVED BY GROWTH OF TIES WITH SUDAN AND WOULD HOPEFULLY BE FURTHER ALLEVIATED IF REORIENTATION OF SOMALIA'S FOREIGN POLICY PERMITTED GREATER ACCOMMODATION BETWEEN SOMALIA AND KENYA.

4. REVERTING TO QUESTIONS OF WESTERN SUPPLIES OF ARMS TO SOMALIA, MBOGUA INQUIRED IF BRITISH, FRENCH, SAUDIS AND OTHERS HAD SAME INTENTION AS US OF LIMITING THEIR SUPPLIES TO DEFENSIVE ITEMS. POST REPLIED THAT WE HAVE CONSULTED ALONG THESE LINES WITH OTHER ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS TO SOMALIA. WE HAVE FOUND THAT BRITISH, PARTICULARLY, SHARE OUR CONCERN THAT NO ARMS SUPPLIED TO SOMALIA SHOULD BE USED AGAINST KENYA AND BRITISH WOULD REQUIRE FIRM ASSURANCES FROM SOMALIS TO THIS EFFECT. MBOGUA EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT BRITISH ATTITUDE, ASSERTING THAT THERE WERE STILL MANY BRITISH FROM FORMER COLONIAL SERVICE WHO FELT IT WOULD BE RIGHT FOR SOMALI-INHABITED PARTS OF KENYA TO GO

TO SOMALIA. POST EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT SUCH INDIVIDUALS  
WERE IN POLICY-MAKING POSITIONS IN BRITISH GOVERNMENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S. SUPPLY OF ARMS TO SOMALIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, SO, US  
**To:** NAIROBI  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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